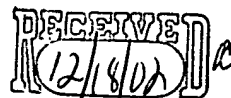


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Official

PATENT
B422-153 DIV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Gaku Watanabe, et al.
Serial No. : 09/964,898
Filed : September 27, 2001
For : CONTROL SYSTEM AND UNITS REMOVABLY
ATTACHED TO THE SAME
Examiner : J. Grant II
Art Unit : 2624

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.121(a)

This is in response to the Office Action of October 3, 2002.

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 33, 38, 41-54 and 56-60 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by the Tsai, et al. patent. In order to overcome this rejection, applicants intend to rely on the applicants' claim for priority under 35 USC § 119 to establish an effective filing date for subject application of at the latest July 24, 1995, which date precedes the earliest possible effective filing date of April 10, 1997 of the cited Tsai, et al. patent.

As stated in applicants' Claim for Priority filed on September 27, 2001, applicants' priority documents, i.e. Hei 07-185450 (filed July 21, 1995) and Hei 07-187433 (filed July 24, 1995) were previously submitted to the USPTO in prior application Serial No. 08/677,824. Moreover, applicants will be filing shortly certified translation of such priority documents.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on:

December 18, 2002

December 18, 2002

Date of Signature

John J. Torrente


Signature

Applicants submit, therefore, that based on the filing of applicants' priority documents and upon the filing of the certified translations, applicants will be entitled to an effective filing date of at least July 24, 1995, which will antedate the earliest possible effective filing date of April 10, 1997 of the Tsai, et al. patent. Accordingly, the Tsai, et al. patent will no longer be a citable reference and the Examiner's rejection based on this patent will have been overcome. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

December 18, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

ROBIN, BLECKER & DALEY
330 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10017
(212) 682-9640


John J. Torrente
Registration No. 26,359
An Attorney of Record

ROBIN, BLECKER & DALEY

330 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10017-5001

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:	Examiner J. Grant II/Art Unit 2624	FROM:	John J. Torrente
COMPANY:	United States Patent & Trademark Office	DATE:	December 18, 2002
FAX NUMBER:	(703) 872-9314	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:	3
PHONE NUMBER:		SENDER'S REFERENCE NUMBER:	B422-153A
RE:	Response to Office Action	YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER:	09/964,898

☐ URGENT ☒ FOR REVIEW ☐ PLEASE COMMENT ☐ PLEASE REPLY ☐ PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

We are forwarding herewith: Facsimile Transmittal Sheet: Response to Office Action Under 37 CFR § 1.121(a) in the application of Gaku Watanabe, et al. for CONTROL SYSTEM AND UNITS REMOVABLY ATTACHED TO THE SAME filed September 27, 2001; in Group 2624.

Respectfully submitted,

John J. Torrente
John J. Torrente
Reg. No. 26,359
Attorney for Applicant

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, on: December 18, 2002

December 18, 2002
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John J. Torrente
Signature